

Page Denied

11 March 1983

SURINAME -- CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
25 November 1975	Suriname granted independence from the Netherlands.
May 1979	Diplomatic relations established with Cuba.
25 February 1980	Sergeant Bouterse and "The Group of 16" seize power.
August 1980	Bouterse accuses Cubans of encouraging a leftist coup. Parliament dissolved. Seven leftist including Sgts Sital, Mijnaals and Joeman arrested for planning a coup.
March 1981	Pro-Cuban sergeants are released after Coup attempt
May 1981	Government issues manifesto putting Suriname on socialist footings; six member Policy Center created.
June 1981	Havana established an official mission in Paramaribo
March 1982	Coup attempt foiled; Sgt Hawker executed.
May 1982	Increased contacts with Cubans
October 1982	Cuban Ambassador Cardenas presents his credentials in Paramaribo. Grenadan Prime Minister Bishop visits Suriname.
8 Decmeber 1982	Fifteen opponents of the Bouterse regime executed, including Cyrill Daal (head of the largest trade union federation-Moederbond); the editor of the local news agency and three other leading journalists; the chairman of the lawyers association and three other attorneys; the university's dean of economics; and two former cabinet ministers--one a local sports hero.
30 January 1983	Deputy Army Comander Horb and 14 others arrested.
2 February 1983	Horb is alleged to have "committed suicide."
28 February 1983	New cabinet is named with PALU leader Alibux as Prime Minister.
4 March 1983	Bouterse flies with Castro and Bishop to NAM summit in New Delhi.

UNCLASSIFIED

11 March 1983

SURINAME

Pro-Bouterse Forces

Military	1,500
Police	1,000
Key Political Allies	"Group of 16" Three leftists: Sital, Mijnaals, Joeman Dick DeBie, National Info Service
Pro-Bouterse Institutions	People's Committees (created after the revolution) "Peoples Militia" (60-100)
Cubans	Mission in June 1981; upgraded to Embassy in November 1981.
Soviets	Embassy opened in Spring 1982
Grenada	No Embassy, but some advisors
Other Communist/ Radical Arab	Non-resident diplomatic relations with North Korea & Libya

Potential Bouterse Opposition

Labor	About 33,000 members in 5 federations plus independents
Political Parties	All were outlawed soon after February 1980 coup, but two pro-regime parties have since become prominent: Progressive Farmers and Workers Org (PALU) Revolutionary People's Party (RVP)
Potential Opposition Leaders	Former President Chirac-Sen Dutch exile community
Military	A substantial portion of armed forces are apolitical or would prefer democratic alternative to Bouterse. Minority Hindustani in lower ranks could pose a special threat.
Other Groups	Various business organizations, lawyers' organizations, private print media, Council of Christian Churches, Hindustani organizations, Students (especially medical)